

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS CALLED FOR WEDNESDAY,
MARCH THIRTEENTH, 1968, AT 2:00 P.M. IN THE CAPITOL OFFICE
(H-202) OF THE HOUSE MINORITY LEADER, THE HONORABLE
GERALD R. FORD

Present:

Chairman Bliss
Congressmen Ford, Arends, Rhodes, Goodell, Cramer, Poff
Senators Dirksen, Murphy, Scott

Absent:

Congressmen Laird, Smith, Wilson
Senators Kuchel, Hickenlooper, Smith, Young

Also Present:

Hon. Fred Scribner, General Counsel, R.N.D., Bryce Harlow,
Robert McCormick, Robert Hartman, Patrick Boarman,
Harry Brookshire

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m. and called upon Mr. Scribner to discuss a proposed amendment to the Internal Revenue Code to permit use of funds obtained through the sale of advertising in national political party convention programs for convention expense if the funds are used solely to defray expenses of the party's National Convention. Copy of the proposed amendment is attached.

Mr. Scribner said the Democratic National Committee has approved the proposed amendment and has offered to do what it can to have it enacted before this year's National Conventions. Chairman Bliss stated, and Mr. Scribner confirmed, that it would mean several hundred thousand dollars to the RNC toward defraying Convention costs.

There was discussion as to procedure to be followed on the amendment in the House and Senate. Congressman Ford said he would talk to Congressmen Byrnes and Curtis, ranking Republicans on the House Ways and Means Committee. Senator Dirksen said he would discuss the matter with

Senator Williams of Delaware, ranking Republican of the Senate Finance Committee.

However, after further discussion there was some doubt expressed that Congressman Mills, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, would look favorably on the amendment if it was attached to any Senate legislation requiring House approval. It was decided that Congressman Ford and Senator Dirksen would explore the proper legislative procedure and advise Chairman Bliss.

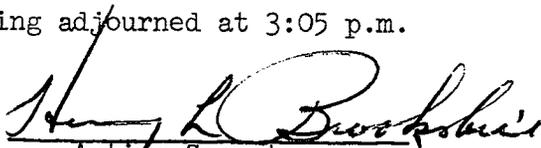
Chairman Bliss brought up the subject of Coordinating Committee Task Force papers being prepared for the Coordinating Committee meeting scheduled for March 18th. Congressman Ford asked the Chairman if the Coordinating Committee might want to take some action regarding the Vietnam situation. Chairman Bliss and Senator Dirksen expressed the hope that the matter would not be brought up at this meeting. It was agreed by all present that if at all possible this subject should be delayed.

Senator Dirksen read the drafted statement for the March 14th Press Conference dealing with the problems of America's farmers. Changes were suggested by Congressmen Rhodes and Poff, and Senator Dirksen agreed.

Congressman Ford read his press statement also dealing with the problems of America's farmers. Senator Murphy suggested a change in the last paragraph, which was agreed to by Congressman Ford.

Chairman Bliss urged the Leadership to be prompt in their attendance at next week's Coordinating Committee session.

There was urgent legislative business in both Houses. No further business was discussed, and the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.


Acting Secretary